

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 EUR-12
/121 W

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R 121929Z JUN 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2150
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1586

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV MILI ET CU
SUBJ: BRIEF EXCHANGE WITH ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR/ETHIOPIAN
TIDBITS

1. ACTING USINT CHIEF, JUNE 9, HAD BRIEF EXCHANGE, FOR FIRST TIME, WITH ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR ATO AEMERO WONDIMAGEGNEHU. (SEPTTEL REPORTS ON HIS STATEMENTS ON PDRY.) AMBASSADOR CHARACTERIZED SPLIT BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AND US POSITIONS DURING SOMALI INVASION AS "MISUNDERSTANDING". HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS STILL RELUCTANT TO ACCEDE TO LONG-PENDING USINT REQUEST TO CALL AT ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY. (COMMENT: WE PRESUME THAT HE IS CONCERNED WITH CUBAN OR ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL SECURITY REACTION. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR APPEARS REMARKABLY AMERICANIZED IN MANNER. HE ALLOWED THAT HE IS AWAITING ARRIVAL OF NEW CHEVROLET CAPRICE CLASSIC.)

2. ETHIOPIAN, IN REPLY TO ALGERIAN CHARGE'S QUESTION ON WHETHER HE IS EXPECTING TO TAKE A "VACATION" SOON (A REFERENCE TO REPORTED EXPULSION OF CUBAN AMBASSADOR FROM ADDIS), SAID THAT THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD THAT HE WILL BE LEAVING HAVANA IN NEAR FUTURE.

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3. FYI FOLLOWING ARE MISCELLANEOUS RUMORS OR BITS OF INFORMATION ON ETHIOPIA CIRCULATING IN CITY.

4. VATICAN NUNCIATURA, JUNE 7, INDICATED THAT CUBAN RELATIVES OF INDIVIDUALS KILLED IN AFRICA, UPON BEING INFORMED OF DEATH, ARE BEING TOLD THAT MATTER IS "STATE SECRET" WHICH MUST NOT BE DISCLOSED. RELATIVES ARE ASSURED THAT

BODIES WILL BE RETURNED TO CUBA IN TWO YEARS.

5. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ, JUNE 11, ASKED A CUBAN GOVERNMENT-SELECTED GROUP OF ABOUT A DOZEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHETHER THEY PERSONALLY KNOW ANY PERSONS KILLED OR WOUNDED IN AFRICA. ABOUT ONE-THIRD RAISED THEIR HANDS.

6. ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR, JUNE 9, SAID THAT ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO (BUT BEFORE VISIT OF MAJOR YEHWALESSET GIRMA - SEE HAVANA 1464) A HIGH-LEVEL ETHIOPIAN GUEST WAS RECEIVED AT PROTOCOL RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES ADJOINING ARGENTINE'S RESIDENCE. ARGENTINE ASSOCIATES PURPORTED SECRET VISIT WITH NEGEDE GOBEZIE AFFAIR.

7. USINT OFFICERS OBSERVED GIRMA DELEGATION, JUNE 7, SEEKING OUT TAXIS - THUS SUGGESTING THAT CUBANS ARE NOT PROVIDING THEM CONSTANT TRANSPORT SERVICES USUALLY FURNISHED TO HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS.

8. ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER OF LEFTIST SYMPATHIES INDICATED, JUNE 9, THAT ITALIAN RADICAL GROUPS WHICH MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ETHIOPIAN MEI SONE SAY THAT MEI SONE BELIEVES THAT PROBLEMS WITHIN DIRG CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED BY REMOVAL FROM POWER OF MENGISTU. GLASSMAN

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